

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently amended). A method for treating viral infections, lupus erythematosus, or rheumatoid arthritis or for stimulating natural killer cells against neoplastic cells ~~tumors and autoimmune and inflammatory diseases treatable with human fibroblast interferon (interferon- β)~~, comprising administering an effective amount of a polyol-human fibroblast interferon (interferon- β) conjugate having a polyol moiety covalently bound to Cys¹⁷ of human fibroblast interferon to a subject in need thereof.

2 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein said polyol moiety is a polyalkylene glycol moiety.

3 (Original). The method according to claim 2, wherein said polyalkylene glycol moiety is a polyethylene glycol (PEG) moiety.

4 (Currently amended). The method according to claim 1, wherein the polyol-human fibroblast interferon conjugate has the same or higher antiviral and antiproliferative activity as ~~native~~ human fibroblast interferon.

Claims 5-22 (Cancelled).

23(Previously presented). A method for treating multiple sclerosis, comprising administering an effective amount of a polyol-human fibroblast interferon (interferon- β) conjugate having a polyol moiety covalently bound to Cys¹⁷ of human fibroblast interferon to a subject in need thereof.

24(Previously presented). The method of claim 23, wherein said polyol moiety is a polyalkylene glycol moiety.

25(Previously presented). The method of claim 24, wherein said polyalkylene glycol moiety is a polyethylene glycol (PEG) moiety.

26(Currently amended). In a method for treating multiple sclerosis, viral infections, tumors and autoimmune and inflammatory diseases treatable with human fibroblast interferon (interferon- β) rheumatoid arthritis, or lupus erythematosus, or for stimulating natural killer cells against neoplastic cells, which comprises administering an effective amount of human fibroblast interferon (interferon- β) to a subject in need thereof, the improvement wherein the human fibroblast interferon is a polyol-human fibroblast interferon conjugate having a ~~poly~~ polyol moiety covalently bound to Cys¹⁷ of human fibroblast interferon.

27(Previously presented). The method of claim 26, wherein said polyol moiety is a polyalkylene glycol moiety.

28(Previously presented). The method of claim 27, wherein said polyalkylene glycol moiety is a polyethylene glycol (PEG) moiety.

29(New). The method of claim 1, which treats viral infections.

30(New). The method of claim 1, which treats lupus erythematosus.

31(New). The method of claim 1, which treats rheumatoid arthritis.

32(New). The method of claim 1, which stimulates natural killer cells against neoplastic cells.

33(New). The method of claim 26, which treats multiple sclerosis.

34(New). The method of claim 26, which treats viral infections.

35(New). The method of claim 26, which treats lupus erythematosus.

36(New). The method of claim 26, which treats rheumatoid arthritis.

37(New). The method of claim 26, which stimulates natural killer cells against neoplastic cells.